

**South Dakota National Guard**  
**Public Affairs Office**  
2823 West Main St.  
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Phone 605-737-6721  
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil

September 7, 2008  
PAO 09-07-08

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## NOVUS Windshield owner recognized for outstanding support

### *PAO Staff Reports*

RAPID CITY, S.D. – South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recognized a local employer with the Patriot Award on Wednesday, Sept. 3, at Camp Rapid for outstanding support given to its military employee.

Tim Hast, owner and operator of NOVUS Windshield of Rapid City, received the Patriot Award for supporting employee participation in the South Dakota National Guard.

“I am honored to receive this award,” said Hast.

Hast was nominated by 1st Lt. Thadius Schmit, a South Dakota Army National Guard member of the 235th Military Police Company in Rapid City. Schmit nominated Hast for the support given to Schmit’s family during last summer’s two-week annual training period.

“He (Hast) went above and beyond in his efforts to ensure my family was taken care of in my absence,” said Schmit.

While Schmit was away performing his military duties, Hast was the only one left to do the work at NOVUS.

“But I knew this when I hired him,” said Hast. “The benefits of hiring a military member were the assets he brought with him like dependability, responsibility, and the ability to take the initiative.”

Hast also signed the ESGR Statement of Support, publically displaying his support to the Guard and Reserve member he employs. The statement outlines the pledge that employers will honor when employing a member of the National Guard or Reserve. The pledge states:

- Employers will recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- Employers will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, crisis and war.

“Employers are directly linked to our nation's security,” said Don Kelpin, state chairman of the South Dakota Committee for ESGR. “ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their most valuable asset, their employees.”

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Capt. Lona Christensen at (605) 737-6540.

Photo Cut Line:



**080903-A-5701M-001:** RAPID CITY, S.D. - Tim Hast, owner and operator of NOVUS Windshield Rapid City, SD, accepts the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) "Patriot Award" in addition to signing an ESGR "Statement of Support", presented by Capt. Lona Christensen, SD ESGR executive director. These awards acknowledge the employer contribution to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force. Army National Guard photo by 1st. Sgt. Donald Matthews. (Released)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/080903-A-5701M-001.jpg>

**NOTE:** Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 520 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia. More than 3,600 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.